JS .4 (Rev. 12/12)

RECEIPT #

AMOUNT

APPLYING IFP

JUDGE:

MAG. JUDGE

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information of the filling and service of plephings or other pages provided by local rules of court. This form approve by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket states. SEE VS. SUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

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-04256-LFR Document 1 Filed 07/15/14 Page 2 of 16 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA — DESIGNATION FORM to be used by counsel to indicate the category of the case for the purpose of assignment to appropriate calendar. 6244 Osige Hve. Arch St., 144 Floo Place of Accident, Incident or Transaction For Additional Space Does this civil action involve a nongovernmental corporate party with any parent corporation and any publicly field corporation owning 10% or more of its stock? (Attach two copies of the Disclosure Statement Form in accordance with Fed.R.Civ.P. 7.1(a)) Yes□ Does this case involve multidistrict litigation possibilities? Ycs□ RELATED CASE, IF ANY Case Number: Date Terminated: Civil cases are deemed related when yes is answered to any of the following questions: I. Is this case related to property included in an earlier numbered suit pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court? 2. Does this case involve the same issue of fact or grow out of the same transaction as a prior suit pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court? Yes□ 3. Does this case involve the validity or infringement of a patent already in suit or any earlier numbered case pending or within one year previously Yes□ terminated action in this court? 4. Is this case a second or successive habeas corpus, social security appeal, or pro se civil rights case filed by the same individual? Yes□ CIVIL: (Place / in ONE CATEGORY ONLY) A. Federal Question Cases: B. Diversity Jurisdiction Cases: ☐ Insurance Contract and Other Contracts 1. D Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and All Other Contracts 2. D FELA 2.

Airplane Personal Injury 3. □ Assault, Defamation 3. □ Jones Act-Personal Injury 4.

Antitrust 4. □ Marine Personal Injury 5. D Motor Vehicle Personal Injury 6. D Other Personal Injury (Please specify) Labor-Management Relations 7. Civil Rights 7. Products Liability 8. Products Liability - Asbestos 8. □ Habeas Corpus 9. □ All other Diversity Cases ecurities Act(s) Cases 10. □ Social Security Review Cases (Please specify) 11. □ All other Federal Question Cases JUL 15 2014 (Please specify) ARBITRATION CERTIFICATION Glen R. Marris, Ess, counsel of record do hereby certify: Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 53.2, Section 3(c)(2), that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the damages recoverable in this civil action case exceed the sum of \$150,000.00 exclusive of interest and costs; Relief other than monetary damages is sought. Attorney-at-Law NOTE: A trial de novo will be a trial by jury only if there has been compliance with F.R.C.P. 38. I certify that, to my knowledge, the within case is not related to any last now pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court except as noted above. Attorney I.D.# Attorney-at-Law CIV. 609 (5/2012)



IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

ORIGINAL

CASE MANAGEMENT TRACK DESIGNATION FORM

James Teylor	:	CIVIL ACTION	
Cithen of this complete a Case Manage filing the complaint and serve a copy or side of this form.) In the event that designation, that defendant shall, with the plaintiff and all other parties, a Casto which that defendant believes the case of the case of this form.	n all defendants. (See § 1:03 a defendant does not agree its first appearance, submit se Management Track Designation	of the plan set forth on the re with the plaintiff regarding to the clerk of court and ser	verse g said ve on
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(a) Habeas Corpus – Cases brought ur	nder 28 U.S.C. § 2241 throu	gh § 2255.	()
(b) Social Security – Cases requesting and Human Services denying plain			()
(c) Arbitration – Cases required to be	designated for arbitration ur	ider Local Civil Rule 53.2.	()
(d) Asbestos – Cases involving claims exposure to asbestos.	for personal injury or prope	erty damage from	()
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ORIGINAL

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

JAMES TAYLOR

CIVIL ACTION

114

4256

vs.

NO. 14 CV

CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

and

POLICE OFFICER
CLIFFORD GILLIAM

and

POLICE OFFICER SHAWN WITHERSPOON

COMPLAINT

Plaintiff, James Taylor, by and through his undersigned counsel, hereby files the within Civil Action against the above-named Defendants, and says:

1. This is a Civil Action seeking damages against the Defendants for committing acts, under color of state law, which deprived the Plaintiff of rights secured under the Constitution and laws of the United States; for conspiring for the purpose of impeding and hindering the due course of justice, with the intent to deny the Plaintiff equal protection of laws; and for violations and deprivations of due process; for police brutality; for refusing or neglecting to prevent such deprivations and denials to the

Plaintiff. The Court has jurisdiction of this action under 42 <u>U.S.C.</u>, Section 1983 and 28 U.S.C., Section 1343.

- 2. The Court also has jurisdiction under 28 <u>U.S.C.</u>, Section 1331.
- 3. The plaintiff, James Taylor, is a citizen and resident of the City of Philadelphia, County of Philadelphia, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the United States of America.
- 4. Defendants, CLIFFORD GILLIAM and SHAWN WITHERSPOON, were at all material times and dates, police officers employed by the City of Philadelphia and were supervised by Defendant CITY OF PHILADELPHIA.
- 5. Defendant, CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, is a municipal corporation, organized under the Laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The PHILADELPHIA DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE is under the jurisdiction of the defendant CITY OF PHILADELPHIA.
- 6. Plaintiff sues each and all Defendants in both their individual and official capacities.
- 7. At all times material to this Complaint, CLIFFORD GILLIAM, SHAWN WITHERSPOON and the CITY OF PHILADELPHIA acted under color of the statutes, customs, ordinances and usage of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the City of Philadelphia, and the Philadelphia Police Department.

COUNT I

- 8. Plaintiff incorporates the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 7 as though fully set forth at length herein.
- 9. Plaintiff, who is a 14 year veteran of the United States Army and served in the first Gulf War for 9 months in a warzone, is 49 years of age and has never been convicted of a crime in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania or anywhere else.
- 10. Plaintiff was employed at the time of the incident and has, at all times, been a productive and law-abiding citizen of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
- 11. On July 15, 2012 at approximately 10:20 P.M., Plaintiff, who was employed as a security guard, was returning from work on his way home. He stopped his vehicle near 60th and Locust Streets for the purpose of picking up some matches from a corner deli at that location.
- 12. Plaintiff, who was carrying a fully legal, licensed and registered firearm, left his vehicle and, as he did, he pulled his clothing over the firearm so as not to alarm anyone in the store.
- 13. Plaintiff proceeded to go into the store to secure the matches and as he exited the business, he was brutally assaulted by Philadelphia Police Officers Gilliam and Witherspoon.
- 14. The officers accused the Plaintiff of unlawfully possessing a firearm in violation of the Pennsylvania Uniform Firearms Act.
- 15. Plaintiff showed the officers his Florida license to carry which, at that time, was valid in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Further he showed them his Act 235 card, which also entitled him to carry the firearm.

- 16. Despite the Plaintiff's good faith efforts to convince the officers of the legality of his firearm and his licensure to carry the weapon, and despite the fact that the Plaintiff was never seen engaging in any separate or independent illegal actions or activity, he was placed under arrest in a brutal fashion. His face was slammed against as brick wall, his right arm was twisted, he was forcefully handcuffed and placed in the back of a police cruiser.
- 17. Despite the fact that the Plaintiff obviously possessed two forms of valid licensure to carry a firearm, he was taken to the police district located at 55th and Pine Streets whereupon he spent the next three (3) weeks incarcerated.
- 18. Further, despite the fact that Plaintiff possessed more than sufficient documentation that he was licensed to carry the firearm, the Philadelphia District Attorney's office refused to drop the charges.
- 19. As a result of the arrest and incarceration, Plaintiff lost his newly found job as a security guard and has been unable to secure employment since that time.
- 20. On or about May 2, 2013, after a trial before a judge of the Philadelphia Common Pleas Court, the Plaintiff was found not guilty of all charges.
- 21. Plaintiff was clearly innocent of all charges a fact which was certainly known to the Philadelphia Police Department and the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office throughout the proceedings.
- 22. Nevertheless, the Plaintiff was incarcerated for approximately three (3) weeks in the Philadelphia prison system.
- 23. Plaintiff was forced by these circumstances, to attend multiple hearings at the Criminal Justice Center in Center City Philadelphia.

- 24. Finally, after almost ten (10) tortuous months of criminal proceedings, loss of sleep, inconvenience and loss of work, Plaintiff was found "not guilty" on all charges, due to the overwhelming evidence in his favor.
- 25. Throughout this illegal period of incarceration, the Plaintiff was deprived of his constitutional rights, not adequately informed of the charges against him or why he was being held.
- 26. Plaintiff's ordeal was exacerbated by the fact that he lost his newly-acquired employment as a direct result of the arrest and incarceration.
- 27. As a result of the wrongful arrest and detention by Defendants, Plaintiff suffered severe psychological and physical trauma. His self-image and self-respect were injured. In addition to this, the Plaintiff has sustained mixed permanent physical, emotional and neurological injuries. As a result of said injuries, Plaintiff has been unable to eat or sleep properly and has developed an extreme paranoia when confronted by the image or person of a police officer.
- 28. As a result of their concerted unlawful, malicious and grossly reckless detention of the Plaintiff, Defendants deprived the Plaintiff of his liberty without due process of law, deprived him of his right to counsel, deprived him of equal protection of the law, subjected him to an unlawful seizure of his person and cruelty in violation of the 4th, 5th, 8th and 14th Amendments of the Constitution of the United States and 42 <u>U.S.C.</u> 1983.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, James Taylor, demands Judgment against the Defendants, CLIFFORD GILLIAM, SHAWN WITHERSPOON and THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, jointly and severally, or in the alternative, for compensatory damages, and further demands Judgment against each of the said Defendants, jointly and severally

for punitive damages, together with costs of suit, interest, attorney's fees, and such other further relief as the Court may deem just and equitable.

COUNT II

- 1. Plaintiff incorporates the allegations contained in Count I as though fully set forth at length herein.
- 2. Plaintiff, a resident of the County of Philadelphia, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and a citizen of the United States, was acting lawfully at all relevant times.
- 3. Plaintiff was, at all times, respectful of police authority and had engaged in no illegal, immoral or improper behavior at all relevant times preceding his arrest.
- 4. Suddenly and without any legal justification whatsoever, Defendant, Philadelphia police officers stopped the Plaintiff, rifled through his pockets and in various other ways physically assaulted the Plaintiff.
- 5. This illegal and immoral behavior which was perpetrated by these defendants was completely devoid of any legal justification. There was neither "reasonable suspicion" nor probably cause." In fact, Plaintiff had done absolutely nothing which should have warranted police scrutiny.
- 6. As a result of this assault, Defendants have deprived the Plaintiff of his right to due process, of his right to equal protection under the laws, and have impeded the course of justice, have physically, psychologically and emotionally scarred the Plaintiff, in violation of the 5th and 14th Amendments of the Constitution of the United States and 42 U.S.C., Section 1983.

WHEREFORE, the Plaintiff, James Taylor, demands judgment against all defendants who assaulted and/or wrongfully came into illegal and unjustifiable physical contact with him on or after July 15, 2012 jointly and severally, or in the alternative, for compensatory and/or consequential damages, and further demands Judgment against each of the said Defendants, jointly and severally, for punitive damages, together with costs of suit, interest, attorney's fees, and such other further relief as the Court may deem just and equitable.

COUNT III

- 1. Plaintiff incorporates the allegations contained in Courts One and Two as though fully set for the at length herein.
- 2. Plaintiff had, at all relevant times, behaved in a peaceful and moral manner.

 Despite this fact, he was wrongfully, illegally and immorally arrested and charged with violation of various criminal statutes. All of these allegations were either fabricated and/or untrue.
- 3. Based upon these false suppositions, Plaintiff was wrongfully, illegally and immorally arrested and false reasons for incarceration were concocted against the Plaintiff. In addition, Plaintiff was illegally searched.
- 4. As a result of their concerted unlawful and malicious imposition of false arrest and accusations, Defendants have deprived the Plaintiff of his right to due process, of his right to equal protection of the laws, and have impeded the due course of justice, in violation of the 5th and 14th Amendments of the Constitution of the United States and 42 U.S.C., Section 1983.

WHEREFORE, the Plaintiff, James Taylor, demands judgment against all the Defendants, jointly and severally, or in the alternative for compensatory damages, and further demands Judgment against each of the said Defendant, jointly and severally, for punitive damages, together with costs of suit, interest, attorney's fees, and such other further relief as the Court may deem just and equitable.

COUNT IV

- 1. Plaintiff incorporates the allegations contained in Counts One, Two and Three as though fully set forth at length herein.
- 2. Without any reasonable or justifiable grounds, Defendant police officers repeatedly assaulted, demeaned, defamed, humiliated, and embarrassed Plaintiff by the repeated use of foul, discriminatory and offensive language directed towards the Plaintiff for the sole purpose of harassment, intimidation and abuse.
- 3. At no time did Plaintiff make any statements or take any actions calculated to provoke said Defendants' conduct.
- 4. As a result of the concerted unlawful, intentionally discriminatory and malicious utterances by the Defendant police officers, Defendants deprived the Plaintiff of his liberty without due process of law and deprived him of equal protection of laws in violation of the 5th and 14th Amendments of the Constitution of the United States and 42 U.S.C., Section 1983.

WHEREFORE, the Plaintiff, James Taylor, demands Judgment against the various Defendants, including the Philadelphia police officers who arrested him, jointly and severally, or in the alternative, for compensatory damages, and further demands

Judgment against each of said Defendants, jointly and severally, for punitive damages, together with costs of suit, interest, attorney's fees, and such other further relief as the Court may deem just and equitable.

COUNT V

- 1. Plaintiff incorporates the allegations contained in Counts One, Two, Three and Four as though fully set forth at length herein.
- 2. At all times relevant to this Complaint, Defendants, Philadelphia police officers and members of the Philadelphia District Attorney's office were acting under the direction and control of the Defendant CITY OF PHILADELPHIA.
- 3. Acting under color of State law and pursuant to official policy and custom,
 Defendant CITY OF PHILADELPHIA knowingly, recklessly or with gross negligence
 failed to instruct, supervise, control of discipline on a continuing basis, Defendant police
 officers and/or members of the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office in their duties to
 refrain from:
- (a) Unlawfully and maliciously harassing citizens who were acting in accordance with their constitutional and statutory rights, privileges and immunities;
- (b) Unlawfully and maliciously arresting and prosecuting citizens who were acting in accordance with their constitutional and statutory rights, privileges and immunities;
- (c) Unlawfully and maliciously assaulting and beating citizens, or otherwise using unreasonable and excessive force during the process of making a lawful inquiry regarding an arrest, whether said conduct was lawful or unlawful;

- (d) Unlawfully and maliciously using foul and discriminatory language against citizens who were acting in accordance with their constitutional and statutory rights, privileges and immunities;
- (e) Unlawfully and maliciously refusing to afford constitutional rights to citizens who acted in accordance with their constitutional and statutory rights, privileges and immunities;
- (f) Unlawfully, maliciously and/or negligently arresting citizens and detaining them when said citizens were acting in accordance with their constitutional and statutory rights, privileges and immunities;
- (g) Unlawfully, maliciously and negligently pursuing criminal charges against citizens, with the full knowledge of their innocence of the concocted charges against them, when said citizens were acting in accordance with their constitutional and statutory rights, privileges and immunities;
- (h) Conspiring to violate the rights, privileges and immunities guaranteed to the Plaintiff by the Constitution and laws of the United States and the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and
- (i) Otherwise depriving the Plaintiff of his constitutional and statutory rights, privileges and immunities.
- 4. Defendant CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, had it diligently exercised its duties to instruct, supervise, control and discipline on a continuing basis, should have knowledge that the wrongs conspired to be done, as heretofore alleged, were about to be committed.

- 5. Defendant CITY OF PHILADELPHIA had the power to prevent or aid in preventing the commission of said wrongs, could have done so by reasonable diligence, and knowingly, recklessly or with gross negligence failed or refused to do so.
- 6. Defendant CITY OF PHILADELPHIA directly or indirectly, under color of State law, approved or ratified the unlawful, deliberate, malicious, reckless and wanton conduct of Defendants, Philadelphia police officers and members of the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office, heretofore described.
- 7. As a direct and proximate result of the negligent and intentional acts of Defendant CITY OF PHILADELPHIA and the defendants under its control and supervision, as set forth above, Plaintiff suffered physical and psychological injury, loss of income and/or schooling, medical expenses and severe mental anguish in connection with the deprivation of his Constitutional and Statutory Rights guaranteed by the 4th, 5th, 8th and 14th Amendments of the Constitution of the United States and protected by 42 U.S.C., Section 1983.

WHEREFORE, the Plaintiff, James Taylor, demands judgment against all the Defendants, jointly and severally, or in the alternative, for compensatory damages, and further demands Judgment against each of the said Defendants, jointly and severally, for punitive damages, together with costs of suit, interest, attorney's fees, and such other further relief as the Court may deem just and equitable.

JURY DEMAND

Plaintiff respectfully demands trial by jury as to all issues so triable.

Case 2:14-cv-04256-LFR Document 1 Filed 07/15/14 Page 15 of 16

GLEN R. MORRIS, ESQUIRE

Suite 2226, Land Title Building 100 South Broad Street

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19110

(215) 893-1222

DATED: 7/15/14

Attorney for Plaintiff

VERIFICATION

I verify that the statements made in the foregoing writing and any attachments thereto are true and correct to the best of my information and belief. I understand that false statements therein are made subject to the penalties of 18 Pa.C.S., Section 4904, relating to unsworn falsification to authorities.

MES TAYLOR

Date: 7/15/14